

New income guidelines for CHIP

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The Montana Department of Health and Human Services has announced new income guidelines for the state Children's Health Insurance Plan. The guidelines, effective Feb. 1, may expand the number of children who could qualify for the program.

CHIP provides free or low-cost health insurance for families with children who are not eligible for Medicaid and cannot afford other health insurance.

Each year the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services revises the federal poverty level guidelines to account for inflation and other cost-of-living adjustments.

Under the new guidelines, children from a family of four with an income of no more than \$30,975 a year may be eligible for CHIP. That means a family can earn \$975 more this year than last year and still qualify. Families who earn more than the guidelines should still consider applying, because additional adjustments are made based on the number of family members who work and whether they pay for child care. The application and more information about CHIP are also available online at www.CHIP.mt.gov or by calling CHIP toll-free at 877-543-7669.